

REMARKS

With the cancellation of claim 14, claims 10-13 and 15-18 remain pending in the above-referenced application.

Claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,105,420 to Ardon et al. ("Ardon"). Applicants have amended claims 10 to recite that the predefinable code includes information pertaining to a period of time after which a switch is made from the function to be implemented to a further function of the at least two different functions, and that the further function is suppressed during the period of time. Similarly, Applicants amended claim 15 to recite that the first function is selected for implementation by using a predefinable code for providing an implemented function, and that the predefinable code includes information pertaining to a period of time after which a switch is made from the first function to be implemented to the other function, the other function being suppressed during the period of time.

Ardon shows a method and apparatus for reconfiguring interconnections between switching system functional units. In addition, there is a difference if a function is actively suppressed or if a signal is switched. On the other hand it is also not shown in Ardon that what the Examiner believes meets the predefinable code additionally comprises an item of information about a time period after which a change is made from the function to be implemented to a further function that was suppressed during the period of time. In column 11, lines 6-63, to which the Examiner cited, it is said that a central control determines that a reconfiguration would be desirable and that the determination may be made to effect load balancing in terms of switching element resources for instance time slots. So what is shown in Ardon is a method and arrangement for reconfiguration of switching system functional units and not a function selection by prescribable coding whereby the coding comprises an item of information about a time period to suppress a function during that time period, whereby the feature of the function selection and function suppressing is made at the one and same terminal of the control unit. What is shown in Ardon is a function switching and not a function suppressing as shown in the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn,
and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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